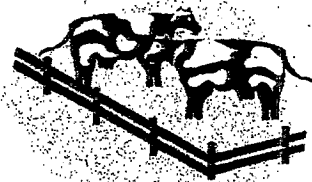


**Tom Orvis**  
**Star Route Box 360**  
**Farmington, CA 95230**



August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Stanislaus and Calaveras rancher. My family has been on this land for five generations. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,

Tom Orvis

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
State Sen. Dick Monteith  
Stanislaus County Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis  
Rep. Gary Condit

Senator Barbara Boxer  
Assemblyman George House

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